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190th Air Refueling Wing Wins National Award

FORBES FIELD, Kan. -- The 190th Air Refueling Wing has again illustrated why it is known as "the standard of excellence" as it was named the recipient of the 2005 Spaatz Trophy that is awarded to the overall outstanding Air National Guard flying unit.

The trophy, presented by the National Guard Association of the United States, was named for Gen. Carl Spaatz, the first chief of staff of the independent Air Force.

The award criteria includes six areas: events of national and international significance, exercises and deployments, operational airlift missions, human resources, accident rate history, unit awards and community involvement.

According to the award citation, the 190th maintains one of the top operations tempos among KC-135 units in the Air National Guard. During the award period, the unit has deployed over 400 personnel in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom with zero reportable on-duty injuries or mishaps. The unit's airframes are meticulously maintained with mission capable rates among the best in the fleet.

In addition to the unit's mission of Air Refueling, the Kansas Coyotes volunteered for additional missions such as the KC-135E Initial Qualification Pilot Training in which 190th instructor pilots trained pilots of the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th ARW. The 185th had recently transitioned from a fighter wing to a refueling wing. Due to the efforts of the 190th, the Iowa Air Guardsmen were trained in record time (11 weeks as opposed to the typical time of 17 weeks).

"This award once again illustrates the high degree of professionalism, job knowledge and pride of the men and women of the 190th Air Refueling Wing and the Kansas Air National Guard," said Colonel Gregg Burden, 190th ARW Wing Commander.

The Spaatz Trophy will be presented to the 190th in September at the NGAUS Conference in Hawaii.

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